

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Applicants propose, subject to the Examiner's approval, changing reference numeral '58' to '54' in FIG. 8, as shown in red ink on the sheet of drawings enclosed herewith.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 3, 5, 7-9, 12-14, 20, 22 and 23 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1 and 18 as indicated below:

1. (Amended) A flexible stent for implantation in a body lumen and expandable from a contracted condition to an expanded condition, comprising:

a plurality of adjacent cylindrical elements which are expandable in the radial direction and arranged in alignment along a longitudinal stent axis;

5 the cylindrical elements formed in a serpentine wave pattern transverse to the longitudinal axis and containing a plurality of alternating peaks and valleys;

B | at least one interconnecting member extending between adjacent cylindrical elements and connecting them to one another;

10 at least one reinforcing member extending across a width of the alternating peaks and valleys, the reinforcing member lying in the same circumferential plane as the cylindrical elements and having a configuration that is essentially parallel to the longitudinal axis when the stent is in the contracted condition and configured to limit the radial expansion of the cylindrical elements;

15 the serpentine pattern containing varying degrees of curvature in regions of the peaks and valleys adapted so that radial expansion of the adjacent cylindrical elements is substantially uniform around their circumferences during expansion of the stent from the contracted condition to the expanded condition.

18. (Twice Amended) A longitudinally flexible stent for implanting in a body lumen and expandable from a contracted condition to an expanded condition, comprising:
a plurality of adjacent cylindrical elements which are independently expandable in the radial direction and arranged in alignment along a longitudinal stent axis;

5 the cylindrical elements formed in a serpentine wave pattern transverse to the longitudinal axis and containing a plurality of alternating peaks and valleys;

at least one interconnecting member extending between adjacent cylindrical elements and connecting them to one another;

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10 a reinforcing member extending across only one of each said peaks and valleys, the reinforcing member lying in the same circumferential plane as the cylindrical elements and having a configuration that is essentially parallel to the longitudinal axis when the stent is in the contracted condition and configured to limit the radial expansion of the cylindrical elements; and

the serpentine wave pattern configured in size and shape so that the cylindrical elements generally expand in a uniform manner around their circumferences during expansion of the stent
15 from the contracted condition to the expanded condition.